(b) The Committee is likely to submit its report by end of April, 1994.

(c) and (d) The Committee shall make its recommendations on the nature of article or class of articles that may be reserved for exclusive production by handlooms after considering its following terms of references:—

I. the article or class of articles which is being produced by handlooms for mass consumption;

II. the article or class of articles which is being produced traditionally by handlooms;

III. the level of employment likely to be generated by the production of the article or class of articles referred to in clause (I) or clause (II) exclusively by handlooms;

IV. the protection of interests of persons engaged in handlooms industy and the need for the continued maintenance of the industry; and

V. such other matters as the Advisory Committee may thing fit.

(e) and (f) Availability of raw material at reasonable price constitutes one of the important problem of the handloom industry. The Committee can examine the problems, however, only in the light of its terms of reference as mentioned in para (c) and (e) above.

**CBI inquiry into sale of Cotton by Maharashtra State Cotton Federation**

2223. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had declared on 20th February 1994 at Nagpur that a CBI enquiry will be made into the transactions of sale of cotton by the Maharashtra State Cotton Federation;

(b) if so, by when the said enquiry is likely to begin;

(c) whether the Chairman of the Federation has recently refuted the Hon'ble Minister's charge; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to sort out this matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) While addressing the meeting of the Maharashtra Cotton Growers Association at Nagpur, the Minister of State for Textiles had referred to some alleged irregularities brought to his notice into the transactions of sale of cotton by the Maharashtra State Cotton Federation. He had stated that if required necessary enquiries would be made, therein. However, the Chairman of the Federation, has, in Press release, refuted the charges of alleged irregularities.

2224. [*Transferred to the 18th March, 1994.*]

**India's quota of Yarn from EEC and USA**

2225. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries, including India, receive a fixed quota off Yarn from EEC and USA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Governments of China and Pakistan are reported to have decided to return their unutilised quota of yarn to the donor countries during the current year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to approch EEC and USA for diversion of the said quota so returned by China and Pakistan for utilisation here;

(d) whether Government have also ascertained the views of the concerned industry in this regard; and

(e) if nat, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Exports of cotton yarn to EEC from India and a few other countries are subject to qutoa restriction. USA also has inposed quota restrictions on import of cotton yarn from a few countries. However, cotton yarn exports from India to USA are not subject to specific limit but are under an overall group limit.

(b) Government have no information on the stand reported to have taken by Chaina and Pakistan in the matter of unutilised quota of yarn.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

**Increasing the production of Cotton**

2226. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of cotton produced, State-wise/District-wise including in Punjab: and

(b) what efforts are being made to Government to increase production of cotton in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The total quantity of cotton produced, state-wise (district-wise details not available) in the country during the cotton season 1993-94 had been estimated as under:—

(Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

| State | Estimated Production |
|---|---|
| Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan | 38.5 |
| Gujarat | 19.5 |
| Maharashtra | 19.00 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 12.5 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 20.5 |
| Karnataka | 8.5 |
| Tamil Nadu | 5.50 |
| Others | 1.00 |
| Total | 125.00 |

(b) The Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in important cotton growing states, including Punjab, to increase the production of all types of cotton to meet the domestic requirement and export surplus produce. Under the scheme, financial assistance to provide to the states for supply of critical inputs, such as seeds, pesticides, equipments, irrigation, sprinklers as also for organising demonstrations of improved technology and farmers training etc.

***Sick and New Textile Mills in Punjab**

2227. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in Punjab which are sick and suffered losses;

(b) the details of each mill and the effective measures Government propose for improvement of the said mills; and

(c) the details of new textiles units proposed to be established in the State during the period of Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) As on 31-1-94, there were 5 textile mills registered with Board for Industrial Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick. The names of mills are given below:—

1. Punjab Spinning and Weaving Mills.

2. JCT Fibres Limited.

3. Khanna Silk Mills.

4. Shree Lalit Fabrics (P) Ltd.

5. Punjab State Hosiery and Knitwear.

Government have set up BIFR to evolve and manage rehabilitation package in respect of viable sick/closed mills.

(c) The Government on its own does not set up any new Cotton/Man-made